THE LIFE OF THE SPIRIT.

Eph.5:18 Be filled with the Spirit."

INTRO. One of the most neglected doctrines of the Church that of the Holy Spirit. It seems to have been tabooed in orthodix Xn circles.

Yet, one of most vital importance. From Abraham to Malachi the Bible records the influence of the Spirit of God upon the minds and wills of men. Only as men were moved by the Spirit of God that tyey became God's prophets missionaries, ambassadors, to lead men to new truths, to new heights of moral and spiritual ~~xxxx~~ realization.

Repeatedly did Jesus teach that his disciples would be prepared for the postolic mission only as they had been empowered and inspired with the Spirit.

Jn.14:16 And I will pray the Father and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever, even the Spirit of Truth.

Jn.14:26 But he Comforter, who is the Holy Ghost, he shall teach you allthings.

~~Jn.15:26~~ Acts 1:4 And (he) commanded them that they shou should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which ye have heard of me."

Acts 1:5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.

Paul in all his writings emphasizes that a knowledge of God and obedience to Jesus Christ can only be perfected by an inward exppperience of the Spirit.

Rom.8:2 "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

Rom.8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God these are the sons of God."

"The Spirit beareth witness that we are children of God"

" The Spirit helpeth our infirmities."

"The Spirit of God dwelleth in you."

"No man can say that Jesus is Lord but by the Holy Ghost."

Well may the Church at this time study anew all a bout the Holy Spirit as the energizing Power which alone can take away its apathy and lethergy and indifference.

This a.m. let us consider awhile the Life of the Spirit.

A. Pentacost, a word which we shall hear often from now until June 8th.
Its meaning.
Its signicifance in the O.T.
Its significance in the N.T.

B. The intoxication of the early disciples.
Not of wine but of the Spirit

C. But this N.T. example and teaching is frowned upon today.
Feeling and emotion in religion is taboo.
O.K. in a political meeting, but not in church
O.K. at a foot-ball game or at the stock exchange, but in church- let a man show strong emotion and give vent to much feeling and he is immediately classified as a lunatic of some kind.

D. Reasons for this attitude-
a. Religious enthusiasm has nothing to do with ethical conduct.
Fervent prayer often far sh short of performance.
The prophets thundered against this hypocritic religion.
b. Often fervent feeling has led to hasty conclusions.
The scientifically trained mind exercises criticism and caution, with full regard to the facts in evyry case.

I. The rightful place of emotion in religionk what is it?
Since religion and life are wrapped together, todetermine the rightful place of emotion in life is to discover its place in religion.
1. Take out of life all the products of our emotions and feelings, what would have left?
What would home- life be? Would we be the richer for such elimination?
Jean Val Jean a character built upon moral sentiment.
Emotion often the contralling factor in politics.

Our beliefs (not merely religious ones) out of which we construct our ideals of life are not merely a matter of intellectual assent, but become a Force that moves us to conviction and action thru our moral awakening. This inner awakening of the soul, this heart response to our ideals is what makes us and our lives what they are.

Since feeling has such a central and vital place in life, it must also have such a place in religion.

II. All Xns need the Spirit of God which intoxicated the souls of the early Pentacostal Xns.

Samuel Gridley Howe- I hold him to be the true Xn who religiously feels andacts, rather than he who religiously believes and thinks.

Believing and thinking are not, however, opposed to feelijg and acting.

Q. If we could but learn to trust our inspirations, our intuitions, our inmost feelings, how much noble r ~~and~~ our faith would become and how much rather our charter would grow!

Deep calls unto deep. It is the heart that hears the voice of God.

Conclusion. By what test can we determine whether or no we have a rightful measure of religious feeling?

1. Religious emotion is not an end in itself.

Like happiness it is not to be found by seeking it, as an ultimate goal.

We get up a picnic to have a good time

But you cant stir the emotions just to hav a spiritual thrill.

You may wish to possess the thrill of spiritual exstacy, you may desire the experience of being stirred by the Holy Spirit, but the pentacostal blessing does'nt come just for the seeking of it.

Just as happiness is realized from the w way one lifes and the work he does, so the blessing of the Spirit comes only from one's faithfulness to his daily duty to Jesus Christ.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit cannot be "worked up" for the occasion.